CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method comprising:

2   transmitting data symbols from a media access control layer (MAC) processing

3   element to a second processor; and

4   monitoring a receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to determine if the

5   data symbols have been completely transmitted from a system transmitter.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising determining whether the RSSI value

2   drops below a predetermined threshold.

1   3.   The method of claim 2 further comprising monitoring the RSSI value if it is

2   determined that the RSSI value has not dropped below the predetermined threshold.

1   4.   The method of claim 2 further comprising setting one or more timers if it is

2   determined that the RSSI value has dropped below the predetermined threshold.

1   5.   The method of claim 1 wherein the second processor is a baseband processor.

1   6.   A computer system comprising a network controller, the network controller

2   including a media access layer (MAC) digital signal processor (DSP) that monitors a

3   receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to identify that the transmission of all data

4   symbols from the network controller has been completed.

1   7.   The computer system of claim 6 wherein the network controller further comprises

2   a baseband DSP coupled to the MAC DSP, wherein the MAC DSP begins to monitor the

3   RSSI value after all data symbols have been transmitted from the media access layer DSP

4   to the baseband DSP.

1　8.　The computer system of claim 7 wherein the baseband DSP comprises:

2　　　a baseband state machine;

3　　　a coding element coupled to the baseband state machine; and

4　　　a modulation element coupled to the coding.

1　9.　The computer system of claim 8 wherein the network controller further

2　comprises:

3　　　a digital to analog converter (DAC) DSP coupled to the baseband DSP; and

4　　　an analog to digital converter (ADC) DSP coupled to the baseband DSP.

1　10.　The computer system of claim 9 wherein the network controller further

2　comprises:

3　　　a transceiver that transmits the RSSI to the MAC DSP; and

4　　　an antenna coupled to the transceiver.

1　11.　The computer system of claim 1 further comprising:

2　　　a system input/output (I/O) bus coupled to the network controller;

3　　　a bridge/memory controller coupled to the system I/O bus; and

4　　　a processor coupled to the bridge/memory controller.

1　12.　A network controller comprising:

2　　　a media access layer (MAC) digital signal processor (DSP) that monitors a

3　receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to identify that the transmission of all data

4　symbols from the network controller has been completed;

5　　　a baseband DSP, coupled to the MAC DSP; and

6　　　a digital to audio converter DSP coupled to the baseband DSP.

1　13.　The network controller of claim 12 wherein the baseband DSP comprises:

2　　　a baseband state machine;

3   a coding element coupled to the baseband state machine; and

4   a modulation element coupled to the coding element.

1   14.   The network controller of claim 12 further comprising:

2   a transceiver, coupled to the DAC DSP, that transmits the RSSI to the MAC DSP;

3   and

4   an antenna coupled to the transceiver.

1   15.   An article of manufacture including one or more computer readable media that

2   embody a program of instructions wherein the program of instructions, when executed by

3   a processing unit, causes the processing unit to:

4   transmit data symbols from a media access control layer (MAC); and

5   monitor a receive signal strength indicator (RSSI) value to determine if the data

6   symbols have been completely transmitted from a system transmitter.

1   16.   The article of manufacture of claim 15 wherein the program of instructions, when

2   executed by a processing unit, further causes the processing unit to determine whether the

3   RSSI value drops below a predetermined threshold.

1   17.   The method of claim 16 wherein the program of instructions, when executed by a

2   processing unit, further causes the processing unit to monitor the RSSI value if it is

3   determined that the RSSI value has not dropped below the predetermined threshold.

1   18.   The method of claim 16 wherein the program of instructions, when executed by a

2   processing unit, further causes the processing unit to set one or more timers if it is

3   determined that the RSSI value has dropped below the predetermined threshold.